

ish yellow. Another species, with flowers tipped with purple and evergreen leaves, and of fetid and cathartic properties, called Stinking Hellebore, or Bearsfoot, (*H. foetidus*) grows in some parts of England in chalky districts. It is often given to children to destroy worms, but it is a powerful medicine, and if taken in too large a quantity may prove fatal.

THE COMMON BARBERRY.

(*Berberis vulgaris*.)

Class—hexandria. Order—monogynia,—N. O. Berberidææ.

Is a shrub growing in some parts of England and Ireland; the thorns on it are three-forked, and the flowers in a raceme like the currant-blossom, and are succeeded by bright red oblong berries, tipped with black. The flowers have a disagreeable scent, and the stamens an elastic property when touched, and throw the pollen upon the stigma: the berries are very acid, but when boiled with sugar form an agreeable preserve. Its name is derived from Berberys, the Arabic for this fruit.

THE PRIMROSE.

(*Primula vulgaris*.)

Class—Pentandria. Order—Monogynia. Nat. Ord.—Primulacææ.

Is named from *Primus*, (first) on account of its early appearance. The Primrose is emblematical of early youth, and well may it be so; so bright, so delicate, it may be nipped in the very bloom of beauty. Shakspeare says,

“Pale Primroses
That die unmarried, ere they can behold
Bright Phœbus in his strength;”

and in another place he makes it a funeral flower for youth:

“With modest flowers,
While summer lasts, and I live here, Fidele,
I’ll sweeten thy sad grave; thou shalt not lack
The flower that’s like thy face, pale Primrose.”

CYMBELINE.

Indeed it is invested by all poets with a mournful character, and Mrs. Hunter has designated it a melancholy blossom, as will be seen by the following lines:—